

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Currently Amended) The file management apparatus of Claim 32 further
2 comprising: A file management apparatus which stores and manages file storage positions in a
3 one to one correspondence with file names and accesses files that correspond to specified file
4 names, the file management apparatus comprising:
5 a file storage unit operable to store files which each include a plurality of
6 numbered pieces of data;
7 a position information storage unit operable to store pieces of position
8 information that indicate segment storage positions in the file storage unit, the pieces of position
9 information being in a one to one correspondence with segment names, and each segment being
10 a set of pieces of data having consecutive numbers;
11 an access request receiving unit operable to receive a segment access request
12 specifying a segment name;
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14 a position information read unit operable to read, from the position information
15 storage unit, a piece of position information corresponding to the segment name specified in the
16 segment access request; and
17 a segment access unit operable to access a segment in the file storage unit by
 referring to the read piece of position information.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The file management apparatus of claim 32, wherein the
2 piece of numerical information contained in each piece of data stored in the file storage unit is a
3 timecode, the file management apparatus further comprising: A file management apparatus
4 which stores and manages file storage positions in a one to one correspondence with file names

5 and accesses files that correspond to specified file names, the file management apparatus
6 comprising:

7 a file storage unit operable to store files which each include a plurality of pieces
8 of data that have each been assigned a timecode;

9 a position information storage unit operable to store pieces of position
10 information that indicate segment storage positions in the file storage unit, the pieces of position
11 information being in a one-to-one correspondence with segment names, each segment being a set
12 of pieces of data having consecutive timecodes;

13 an access request receiving unit operable to receive a segment access request
14 specifying a segment name;

15 a position information read unit operable to read, from the position information
16 storage unit, a piece of position information corresponding to the segment name specified in the
17 segment access request; and

18 a segment access unit operable to access a segment in the file storage unit by
19 referring to the read piece of position information.

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1 3. (Original) The file management apparatus of Claim 2, wherein
2 each piece of segment position information includes (1) an address indicating a
3 file start storage position of a file to which the segment belongs, and either (2-1) (a) an address
4 offset indicating a size of a portion between the file start and a start of the segment and (b) an
5 address offset indicating a size of a portion between the file start and an end of the segment, or
6 (2-2) (a) an address offset indicating a size of a portion between the file start and a start of the
7 segment and (c) a size of the segment.

1 4. (Original) The file management apparatus of Claim 3, wherein

2 the position information storage unit stores the pieces of position information in

3 the same order as the segments for each file, and

4 the file management apparatus further comprising:

5 a receiving unit operable to receive a segment name obtainment request; and

6 a segment name output unit operable to, after the receiving unit receives the

7 segment name obtainment request, refer to the position information storage unit and output to

8 outside the file management apparatus a list of segment names which each include at least (1) a

9 file name of a file to which the segment belongs and (2) a character sequence which indicates a

10 position of the segment in one or more segments belonging to the file.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The file management apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the
2 piece of numerical information contained in each piece of data stored in the file storage unit is a
3 timecode, and the file storage unit further stores, as an entry that corresponds to a file name of

4 the file, position information that indicates a storage position of the file in the file storage unit,
5 the file management apparatus further comprising: A file management apparatus which stores
6 and manages file storage positions in a one to one correspondence with file names and accesses
7 files that correspond to specified file names, the file management apparatus comprising:
8 a file storage unit operable to store files which each include a plurality of pieces
9 of data that have each been assigned a timecode;
10 a first position information storage unit operable to store pieces of position
11 information that indicate file storage positions in the file storage unit, the pieces of position
12 information being in a one to one correspondence with file names;
13 a second position information storage unit operable to store pieces of position
14 information that indicate segment storage positions in the file storage unit, the pieces of position
15 information being in a one to one correspondence with segment names, and each segment being
16 a set of pieces of data having consecutive timecodes;
17 an access request receiving unit operable to receive an access request specifying
18 an access target name which is either a segment name or a file name;
19 a judgement unit operable to judge whether the access target name is a segment
20 name or a file name;
21 a position information read unit operable to read, from either the first position
22 information storage unit or the second position information storage unit, a piece of position
23 information corresponding to the access target name judged by the judgement unit; and
24 an access unit operable to access either a segment or a file stored in the file
25 storage unit by referring to the read piece of position information.

1 7. (Original) The file management apparatus of Claim 6, wherein
2 the judgement unit judges that the access target name is a segment name when the
3 access target name includes a name of a file stored in the file storage unit and a character
4 sequence indicating a serial number of a segment in the file.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The file management apparatus of Claim 32 further
2 comprising: A file management apparatus which stores and manages file storage positions in a
3 one to one correspondence with file names and accesses files that correspond to specified file
4 names, the file management apparatus comprising:

5 a file obtaining unit operable to obtain files which each include a plurality of
6 pieces of video data that have each been assigned a timecode, and store the obtained files in a file
7 storage unit;

8 the file storage unit operable to store the obtained files;

9 a position information obtaining unit operable to recognize each set of pieces of
10 data having consecutive timecodes as a segment, obtain pieces of position information that
11 indicate segment storage positions in the file storage unit, and store the obtained pieces of
12 position information in a position information storage unit;

13 the position information storage unit operable to store the obtained pieces of
14 position information;

15 a segment access request receiving unit operable to receive a segment access
16 request specifying a segment;

17 a position information read unit operable to read, from the position information
18 storage unit, a piece of position information corresponding to the segment specified in the
19 segment access request; and

20 a segment access unit operable to access the segment in the file storage unit by
21 referring to the read piece of position information.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The file management apparatus of Claim 32 further
2 comprising: A file management apparatus which stores and manages file storage positions in a
3 one to one correspondence with file names and accesses files that correspond to specified file
4 names, the file management apparatus comprising:

5 a file obtaining unit operable to obtain files which each include a plurality of
6 pieces of video data that have each been assigned a timecode, and store the obtained files in a file
7 storage unit;

8 the file storage unit operable to store the obtained files;

9 a segment identifying unit operable to recognize each set of pieces of video data
10 having consecutive timecodes as a segment;

11 a position information creating unit operable to create pieces of position
12 information that indicate storage positions of the identified segments in the file storage unit, and
13 store the created pieces of position information in a position information storage unit;

14 the position information storage unit operable to store the created pieces of
15 position information;

16 a segment access request receiving unit operable to receive a segment access
17 request specifying a segment;

18 a position information read unit operable to read, from the position information
19 storage unit, a piece of position information corresponding to the segment specified in the
20 segment access request; and

21 a segment access unit operable to access the segment in the file storage unit by
22 referring to the read piece of position information.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The file management apparatus of Claim 34 further
2 comprising: A file management apparatus which stores and manages file storage positions in a
3 one to one correspondence with file names and accesses files that correspond to specified file
4 names, the file management apparatus comprising:

5 a file storage unit operable to store files which each include one or more segments
6 that are each a logical unit;

7 a position information storage unit operable to store pieces of position
8 information that indicate segment storage positions in the file storage unit;

9 an access request receiving unit operable to receive a segment set access request
10 specifying a segment set name, each segment set being composed of all segments in a file, and
11 each segment set name including a name of the file and a character sequence unique to segment
12 set names;

13 a position information read unit operable to identify a file to which a segment set
14 corresponding to the specified segment set name belongs, and read, from the position
15 information storage unit, pieces of position information corresponding to all segments belonging
16 to the identified file, recognizing the read pieces of position information as a piece of position
17 information of the segment set; and

18 a segment set access unit operable to access the segment set in the file storage unit
19 by referring to the piece of position information of the segment set.

1 11. (Original) The file management apparatus of Claim 10, wherein
2 each piece of segment position information includes (1) an address indicating a
3 file start storage position of a file to which the segment belongs, and either (2-1) (a) an address
4 offset indicating a size of a portion between the file start and a start of the segment and (b) an
5 address offset indicating a size of a portion between the file start and an end of the segment, or
6 (2-2) (a) an address offset indicating a size of a portion between the file start and a start of the
7 segment and (c) a size of the segment.

1 12. (Original) The file management apparatus of Claim 11 further comprising:
2 a receiving unit operable to receive a segment set name obtainment request; and
3 a segment set name output unit operable to, after the receiving unit receives the
4 segment set name obtainment request, refer to the position information storage unit and output to
5 outside the file management apparatus a list of segment set names which each include (1) a file
6 name of a file to which the segment set belongs and (2) a character sequence unique to segment
7 set names.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The file management apparatus of Claim 10 12, wherein
2 each piece of data includes a piece of video data to which a timecode has been
3 assigned; and
4 the segment judging unit judges whether two timecodes assigned to two pieces of
5 video data are continuous.

6 ~~file includes a plurality of pieces of video data that have each been assigned a~~
7 ~~timecode, and~~

8 ~~the file management apparatus further comprises:~~

9 ~~a segment identifying unit operable to recognize each set of pieces of video data~~
10 ~~having consecutive timecodes as a segment; and~~

11 ~~a position information creating unit operable to create pieces of position~~
12 ~~information that indicate storage positions of the identified segments in the file storage unit, and~~
13 ~~store the created pieces of position information in the position information storage unit.~~

1 14. (Currently Amended) The file management apparatus of claim 34 further
2 comprising: ~~A file management apparatus which stores and manages file storage positions in a~~
3 ~~one to one correspondence with file names and accesses files that correspond to specified file~~
4 ~~names, the file management apparatus comprising:~~

5 ~~a file storage unit operable to store files which each include one or more segments~~
6 ~~that are each a logical unit;~~

7 ~~a first position information storage unit operable to store pieces of position~~
8 ~~information that indicate file storage positions in the file storage unit, the pieces of position~~
9 ~~information being in a one to one correspondence with file names;~~

10 ~~a second position information storage unit operable to store pieces of position~~
11 ~~information that indicate segment storage positions in the file storage unit;~~

12 ~~an access request receiving unit operable to receive an access request specifying~~
13 ~~an access target name;~~

14 a judgement unit operable to judge whether the access target name is a segment
15 set name or a file name, each segment set being a set of all segments included in one file;
16 a position information read unit operable to read, from either the file storage unit
17 ~~first position information storage unit or the second position information storage unit~~, a piece of
18 position information corresponding to the access target name judged by the judgement unit; and
19 an access unit operable to access either a segment set or a file stored in the file
20 storage unit by referring to the read piece of position information.

1 15. (Original) The file management apparatus of Claim 14, wherein
2 the judgement unit judges that the access target name is a segment set name when
3 the access target name includes a name of a file stored in the file storage unit and a character
4 sequence unique to segment set names.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The file management apparatus of claim 32, wherein A file
2 ~~management apparatus which stores and manages file storage positions in a one-to-one~~
3 ~~correspondence with file names and accesses files that correspond to specified file names, the~~
4 ~~file management apparatus comprising:~~

5 a file storage unit operable to store files which each include a plurality of pieces
6 ~~of data that have each been assigned a timecode;~~

7 a position information storage unit operable to store pieces of position
8 ~~information that indicate positions of free spaces in the files, each free space not storing a~~
9 ~~segment, and each segment being a set of pieces of data having consecutive timecodes;~~

10 the position information storage unit stores position information that indicates a
11 position of a free space storing no data, the file management apparatus further comprising:

12 an add request receiving unit operable to receive a segment add request which
13 requests to add a new segment to a file;
14 a segment obtaining unit operable to obtain a new segment;
15 a position information read unit operable to read, from the position information
16 storage unit, a piece of free space position information; and
17 a segment add unit operable to add the new segment to the file storage unit by
18 referring to the read piece of free space position information.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The file management apparatus of claim 32, wherein A file
2 management apparatus which stores and manages file storage positions in a one-to-one
3 correspondence with file names and accesses files that correspond to specified file names, the
4 file management apparatus comprising:
5 a file storage unit operable to store files which each include a plurality of pieces
6 of data that have each been assigned a timecode;
7 a position information storage unit operable to store pieces of free space position
8 information that indicate positions of free spaces in the files, each free space not storing a
9 segment, and also store pieces of segment position information that indicate positions of
10 segments in the files, each segment being a set of pieces of data having consecutive timecodes;
11 the position information storage unit stores position information that indicates a
12 position of a free space storing no data, the file management apparatus further comprising:
13 an add request receiving unit operable to receive a segment set add request
14 specifying (1) an add destination file and (2) a source file including a segment set which is to be
15 added to the add destination file;

16 a position information read unit operable to read, from the position information
17 storage unit, a piece of free space position information indicating a position of a free space of the
18 specified add destination file;

19 a segment set extract unit operable to extract all segments included, in the source
20 file as a segment set by referring to the pieces of segment position information stored in the
21 position information storage unit; and

22 a segment set add unit operable to add the extracted segment set to the free space
23 by referring to the read piece of free space position information.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The file management apparatus of claim 32, wherein A file
2 ~~management apparatus which stores and manages file storage positions in a one to one~~
3 ~~correspondence with file names and accesses files that correspond to specified file names, the~~
4 ~~file management apparatus comprising:~~

5 a file storage unit operable to store files which each include a plurality of pieces
6 ~~of data that have each been assigned a timecode;~~

7 a position information storage unit operable to store pieces of free space position
8 ~~information that indicate positions of free spaces in the files, each segment being a set of pieces~~
9 ~~of data having consecutive timecodes;~~

10 the position information storage unit stores position information that indicates a
11 position of a free space storing no data, the file management apparatus further comprising:

12 an add request receiving unit operable to receive a file add request specifying (1)
13 an add destination file and (2) a source file which is to be added to the add destination file;

14 a position information read unit operable to read, from the position information
15 storage unit, a piece of free space position information indicating a position of a free space of the
16 specified add destination file;

17 a file add unit operable to add the source file to the free space by referring to the
18 read piece of free space position information.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The file management apparatus of claim 34 further
2 comprising: A file management apparatus which stores and manages file storage positions in a
3 one to one correspondence with file names and accesses files that correspond to specified file
4 names, the file management apparatus comprising:

5 a file storage unit operable to store files which each include one or more segments
6 that are each a logical unit;

7 a position information storage unit operable to store pieces of position
8 information that indicate segment storage positions in the file storage unit;

9 an access request receiving unit operable to receive a segment partial set access
10 request specifying a file name and a condition, each segment partial set being a set of one or
11 more segments in one file;

12 a position information read unit operable to read, from the position information
13 storage unit, pieces of position information corresponding to all segments belonging to the
14 specified file and satisfying the specified condition, recognizing the read pieces of position
15 information as a piece of position information of the requested segment partial set; and

16 a segment partial set access unit operable to access the segment partial set by
17 referring to the piece of position information of the segment partial set.

20. (Currently Amended) The file management apparatus of Claim 19, wherein
each piece of data includes a piece of video data to which a timecode has been
assigned, and

the segment judging unit judges whether two timecodes assigned to two pieces of
video data are continuous, each file includes video data including portions that have each been
assigned a timecode, and

the file management apparatus further comprises:

a segment identifying unit operable to recognize each set of video data portions
having consecutive timecodes as a segment, and

a position information creating unit operable to create pieces of position information that
indicate storage positions of the identified segments in the file storage unit, and store the created
pieces of position information in the position information storage unit.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

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28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

1 31. (New) A file management apparatus for managing files stored therein,
2 comprising:
3 a file storage unit operable to store a file that contains two pieces of data, each piece of
4 data containing a piece of numerical information;
5 a segment judging unit operable, for each file stored in the file storage unit, to read the
6 two pieces of data, extract two pieces of numerical information respectively from the read two
7 pieces of data, and judge whether the two pieces of numerical information are continuous; and
8 a segment generating unit operable, if the segment judging unit judges that the two pieces
9 of numerical information are continuous, to generate a segment that contains the read two pieces
10 of data.

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1 32. (New) The file management apparatus of claim 31, wherein
2 the segment generating unit includes:
3 a position information storage unit;
4 a position obtaining unit operable, if the segment judging unit judges that the two pieces
5 of numerical information are continuous, to obtain two pieces of position information
6 respectively of the two pieces of data from the file storage unit; and
7 a position information write unit operable to, recognizing the two pieces of data as the
8 segment, generate a segment name for identifying the recognized segment, and write into the
9 position information storage unit (ii) the segment name and (ii) the two pieces of position

10 information as an entry that corresponds to the segment name, the two pieces of position
11 information indicating a storage position of the segment.

1 33. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 32, wherein
2 if the segment judging unit judges that the two pieces of numerical information are not
3 continuous, the segment generating unit generates a segment that contains one of the read two
4 pieces of data, and generates another segment that contains the other of the read two pieces of
5 data.

1 34. (New) The file management apparatus of Claim 33, wherein
2 if the segment judging unit judges that the two pieces of numerical information are not
3 continuous, the position obtaining unit obtains two pieces of position information respectively of
4 the two pieces of data from the file storage unit, and
5 the position information write unit, recognizing the two pieces of data as two different
6 segments, generates two segment names for identifying the two segments, and writes into the
7 position information storage unit (i) the two segment names and (ii) the two pieces of position
8 information as entries that respectively correspond to the two segment names, the two pieces of
9 position information indicating storage positions of the two segments, respectively.

1 35. (New) A file management method for use in a file management apparatus for
2 managing files stored in a file storage unit thereof, wherein each of the files stored in the file
3 storage unit contains two pieces of data which each contain a piece of numerical information, the
4 file management method comprising:
5 a segment judging step for, for each file stored in the file storage unit, reading the two
6 pieces of data, extracting two pieces of numerical information respectively from the read two
7 pieces of data, and judging whether the two pieces of numerical information are continuous; and

8 a segment generating step for, if the segment judging step judges that the two pieces of
9 numerical information are continuous, generating a segment that contains the read two pieces of
10 data.

1 36. (New) The file management method of Claim 35, wherein
2 the file management apparatus further includes
3 a position information storage unit, and
4 the segment generating step includes:
5 a position obtaining step for, if the segment judging step judges that the two pieces of
6 numerical information are continuous, obtaining storage positions of the two pieces of data from
7 the file storage unit; and
8 a position information write step for, recognizing the two pieces of data as a segment,
9 generating a segment name for identifying the recognized segment, and writing into the position
10 information storage unit (i) the segment name and (ii) the two pieces of position information as
11 an entry that corresponds to the segment name, the two pieces of position information indicating
12 a storage position of the segment.

1 37. (New) The file management method of Claim 36, wherein
2 if the segment judging step judges that the two pieces of numerical information are not
3 continuous, the segment generating step generates a segment that contains one of the read two
4 pieces of data, and generates another segment that contains the other of the read two pieces of
5 data.

1 38. (New) The file management method of Claim 37, wherein

2 if the segment judging step judges that the two pieces of numerical information are not
3 continuous, the position obtaining step obtains storage positions of the two pieces of data from
4 the file storage unit, and

5 the position information write step, recognizing the two pieces of data as two different
6 segments, generates two segment names for identifying the two segments, and writes into the
7 position information storage unit (i) the two segment names and (ii) the two pieces of position
8 information as entries that respectively correspond to the two segment names, the two pieces of
9 position information indicating storage positions of the two segments, respectively.

1 39. (New) A computer-readable recording medium that stores a file management
2 program for use in a file management apparatus for managing files stored in a file storage unit
3 thereof, wherein each of the files stored in the file storage unit contains two pieces of data which
4 each contain a piece of numerical information, the file management program comprising:

5 a segment judging step for, for each file stored in the file storage unit, reading the two
6 pieces of data, extracting two pieces of numerical information respectively from the read two
7 pieces of data, and judging whether the two pieces of numerical information are continuous; and

8 a segment generating step for, if the segment judging step judges that the two pieces of
9 numerical information are continuous, generating a segment that contains the read two pieces of
10 data.

1 40. (New) The computer-readable recording medium of Claim 39, wherein
2 the file management apparatus further includes
3 a position information storage unit, and
4 the segment generating step includes:

5 a position obtaining step for, if the segment judging step judges that the two pieces of
6 numerical information are continuous, obtaining storage positions of the two pieces of data from
7 the file storage unit; and

8 a position information write step for, recognizing the two pieces of data as a segment,
9 generating a segment name for identifying the recognized segment, and writing into the position
10 information storage unit (i) the segment name and (ii) the two pieces of position information as
11 an entry that corresponds to the segment name, the two pieces of position information indicating
12 a storage position of the segment.

1 41. (New) The computer-readable recording medium of Claim 40, wherein
2 if the segment judging step judges that the two pieces of numerical information are not
3 continuous, the segment generating step generates a segment that contains one of the read two
4 pieces of data, and generates another segment that contains the other of the read two pieces of
5 data.

1 42. (New) The computer-readable recording medium of Claim 41, wherein
2 if the segment judging step judges that the two pieces of numerical information are not
3 continuous, the position obtaining step obtains storage positions of the two pieces of data from
4 the file storage unit, and
5 the position information write step, recognizing the two pieces of data as two different
6 segments, generates two segment names for identifying the two segments, and writes into the
7 position information storage unit (i) the two segment names and (ii) the two pieces of position
8 information as entries that respectively correspond to the two segment names, the two pieces of
9 position information indicating storage positions of the two segments, respectively.